

# Irrigation

One of the essential components of your landscaping.

Drip and micro-sprayer irrigation systems are much more water efficient than overhead watering, except for lawns or large groundcover areas. Drip and micro-sprayer irrigation minimize water lost to evaporation and run-off and also helps minimize weed growth.

Your plants and soil are good indicators of when to water. Even though the soil surface is dry, it may still be moist where plant roots are located. Use a soil probe. If the soil is moist at the root zone, there is no need to water.



If you need special assistance to view the educational materials in this demonstration garden, please call 564-5460



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# Design Areas

Throughout this demonstration garden are different design areas and microclimates, which are described below.

## Bulbs and Groundcovers

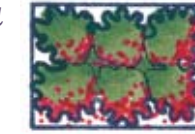


Most bulbs put on a spectacular show and then die back for a good portion of the year. To provide year-round interest, include a groundcover through which the bulbs can grow each season. When they finish their show, the bulbs collect energy for the next season as the foliage dries and turns brown. Groundcovers will minimize the unsightly foliage during this important phase.



## Sunny Area

Just as there are plants that tolerate varying degrees of shade, not all sun-loving plants tolerate the hot afternoon sun of a south or west facing exposure, or the intensity of reflected heat from a wall. The key to a successful sunny garden is, again, learning the needs and tolerances of the plants. Remember to group your plants, sun-loving or shade loving, according to their water needs, so that you avoid over-watering many to maintain one water-hungry plant in their midst.



## Flower Borders



A well-designed flower border is one in which plants with staggered blooming times provide at least two peak bloom phases each year. Evergreen shrubs and groundcovers, carefully placed, give skeletal structure to the border and provide intermittent color in those few periods when the big bloomers are in their resting phase.



## Shaded Area

This garden's shady areas vary from bright shade to very deep shade. Plants that are found in such areas appreciate the cooler air and soil temperatures and the fact that their water supply evaporates less quickly. There are plants that will grow happily in dappled shade, but languish and weaken in deep shade. So it pays to do your research when choosing your shade garden plant palette.



## Dry Creek Bed



In gardens that have seasonal drainage areas, a dry creek bed can be used to channel the water through the garden, preventing it from washing away valuable mulch and topsoil. Plants that tolerate occasional "wet feet", like Juncus (Juncus patens) and Cape Rush (Chondropetalum tectorum), work well on the edges of the creek bed. These plants also tolerate the dry summer months when no water runs through the creek.



For free publications and assistance on water efficient landscaping, call the City of Santa Barbara's Water Conservation Hotline at 564-5460.



# Alice Keck Park

## Memorial Garden



## Low-water Using Demonstration Garden





# Why Conserve Water in your Garden?

## Lower Your Water Bill

Did you know that nearly half the water you pay for will be used in your garden? And, if you are typical, you can reduce your landscape water by 20 to 40 percent by following the steps outlined in this brochure.

## Saves Money on Maintenance Costs

A low-water using garden means a low maintenance garden. By avoiding thirsty plants, you can reduce pruning, weeding and pest control tasks, leaving more time to enjoy your garden and reducing maintenance costs.

## Appropriate For Our Climate

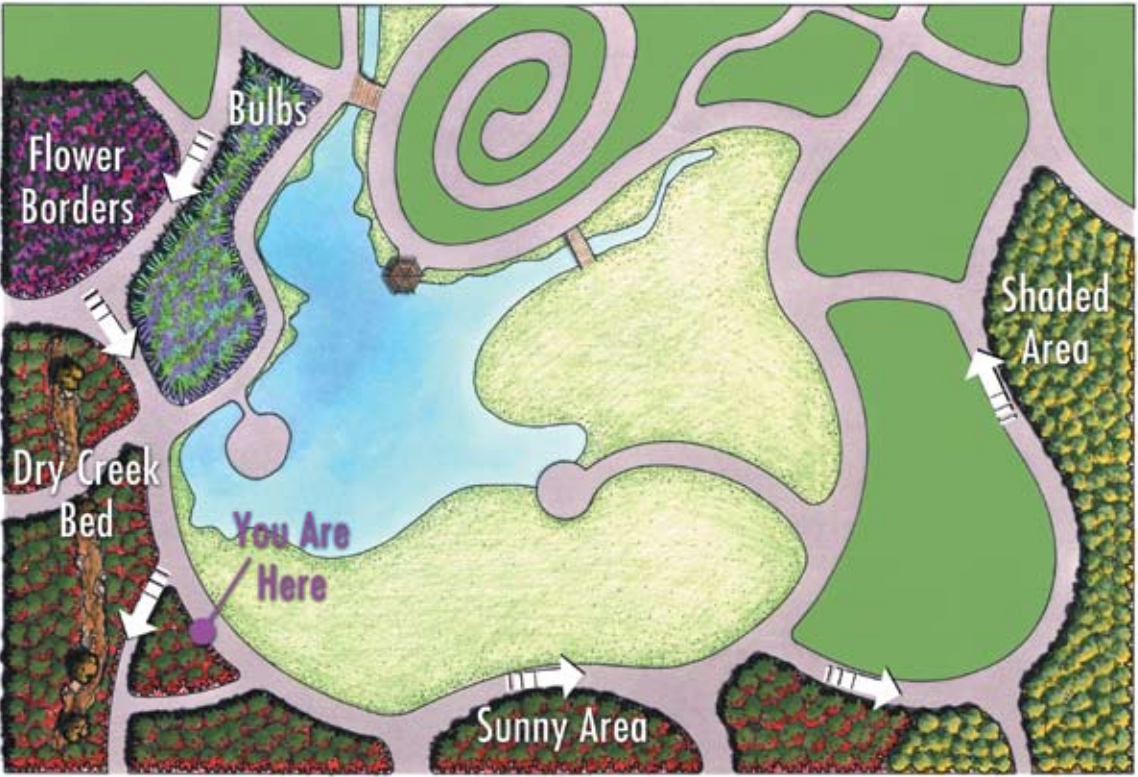
California is a dry state. Water is a precious resource and in limited supply in California. Much of California, including Santa Barbara, has a Mediterranean climate typified by warm dry summers and cool moist winters. Well-designed, water-thrifty gardens provide lush outdoor living spaces that thrive on a minimum of water and maintenance. And by design, they are imbued with a sense of place... a garden appropriate to the sunny, Mediterranean climate in which we live.

*In this demonstration garden you will find ideas on how to create your own low-water using landscape. The portion of Alice Keck Park Memorial Garden that is the low-water using demonstration garden is depicted on this diagram, though you will find many plants in other areas of the garden that are low-water using as well.*

*The plants featured in this garden are labeled and a plant list is provided for you in the dispenser next to the interpretive sign.*

*As you walk through the garden follow the suggested route indicated on the diagram.*

# Take a Walk Through the Park!



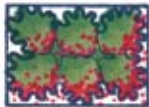
bulbs & groundcovers



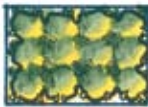
flower borders



dry creek bed



sunny area



shaded area



# Principles of a Low-water Using Garden

## Planning & Design

A good landscape begins with thorough planning and evaluation. Consider the existing soil and climatic conditions of your site and decide how much time and money you are willing to spend on maintenance. Each of these considerations will influence the design of your landscape.

## Limit Lawn Areas

Plant turf where it is for a specific purpose and reduce the size to only what is necessary.

## Know Your Soil

Different soil types absorb water differently. Find out what type of soil is in your garden, so that you can choose plants wisely and then water to the appropriate needs of the plants and soil.

## Know Your Plants

Select low-water using plants and group plants with similar water and sun requirements together, creating “hydrozones.” This will help make your irrigation more efficient. Choose plants that grow to the desired size, without the need for pruning.

## Irrigate Efficiently

Properly designed irrigation systems apply water efficiently. Use low-flow drip or micro-sprayers where ever possible. Use separate irrigation valves for each “hydrozone.”

## Use Mulches

Mulch covers and cools the soil, minimizes evaporation of water from the soil, minimizes weed growth, slows erosion and, over time, improves the quality of the soil. Apply organic mulch over all bare soil and remember to supplement it as it breaks down.

## Provide Regular Maintenance

Every garden requires some maintenance. Periodic pruning, fertilizing, organic pest control, maintaining a good layer of mulch and weeding will keep your garden healthy and attractive. Following the above principles will reduce maintenance.